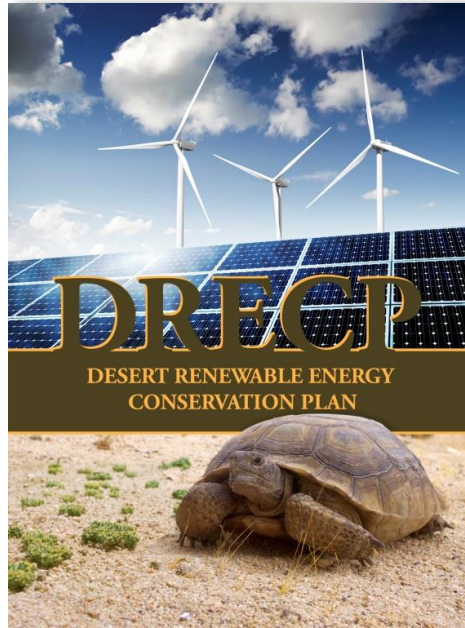


Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement

Volume VI: Mitigation Monitoring and Adaptive Management



Prepared by:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management



In Partnership with:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

California Energy Commission

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

OCTOBER 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS – VOLUME VI

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
ACRONYM LIST	ACR-I
VI. MITIGATION MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT.....	VI-1

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

ACRONYM LIST

AIM	Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMA	Conservation and Management Action
DRECP	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
LUPA	Land Use Plan Amendment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

VI. MITIGATION MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The information, issues, and mitigation strategies incorporated into the Preferred Alternative and the Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) presented in this EIS will be used, considered, evaluated, and disclosed in any subsequent environmental documents that are prepared to implement the DRECP and in the review and approve of individual projects within the LUPA Decision Area.

Implementation of the DRECP would result in portions of the LUPA Decision Area being designated for various levels of management and conservation, with incentives to encourage renewable energy projects to locate in areas designated for focused development. Environmental reviews of individual future renewable energy and transmission projects in the LUPA Decision Area would tier from the Proposed LUPA and Final EIS, as appropriate. Future projects would be evaluated with regard their environmental impacts based on the projects' specific characteristics, the resources they would affect, the nature of those effects, and their location within the desert.

Authority for Mitigation Monitoring. BLM is the federal Lead Agency this Final EIS in compliance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the BLM's NEPA guidance handbook (H-1790-1). As the Lead Agency, BLM also is responsible for ensuring that conditions of approval, including mitigation measures, are implemented for projects on lands it administers. Under NEPA, other agencies with jurisdiction over some aspect of a project, including affected resources, are considered cooperating agencies. These can be federal agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or state agencies. Under the DRECP, because it is the manager for much of the federal land directly affected by the DRECP, the BLM would be the lead agency for project review and approval.

Adaptive Management. As described on BLM's webpage, Monitoring for Adaptive Management¹ BLM has implemented a strategy called "Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring" (AIM) which will allow the agency to more efficiently and effectively meet local, regional and national information needs. The AIM Strategy provides a process for the BLM to collect quantitative information on the status, condition, trend, amount, location, and spatial pattern of renewable resources on the nation's public lands. Each AIM-Monitoring survey uses a set of core indicators, standardized field methods, remote sensing, and a statistically valid study design to provide nationally consistent and scientifically defensible information to track changes on public lands over time.

¹ <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/LandscapeApproach/MonitoringforAdaptiveManagement.html>

The BLM will use information derived from AIM-Monitoring to make necessary management adjustments to meet resource objectives described at project, activity plan, resource management plan, and national program levels. Reporting at multiple scales will inform decision makers on the effectiveness of management actions, opportunities for adaptive management, refinement of conceptual models, and evaluation of the monitoring program itself. Adaptive management decisions will be subject to environmental analysis, land use planning, and public involvement, as appropriate.

Enforcement. NEPA does not provide BLM with authority to take action, including ordering an immediate temporary suspension of activities, if the requirements of CMAs or subsequently adopted mitigation measures are not met. However, BLM has this authority under other laws. For example, BLM has legal authority to enforce the terms and conditions of its ROW Grant as specified in 43 CFR 2807.16 to 2807.19.